

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a light source for generating light directed toward a linear image reading region that has a first length;

a plurality of light-receiving elements that output image signals corresponding to received light;

a ~~plurality~~ an array of lenses that focuses light onto the light-receiving elements, the array of lenses having a second length that is greater than the first length; and

a light-shielding member;

wherein all of the light-receiving elements are arranged in a single line having an extremity, the light-shielding member covering at least one light-receiving element disposed at the extremity outside the first length but inside the second length.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein remaining light-receiving elements other than the covered light-receiving element or elements are exposed.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the covered light-receiving element is arranged to avoid direct facing to an object to be read out.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light-shielding member comprises one of a metal layer and a nonmetal layer.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the nonmetal layer is made of a paint material.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light-shielding member is black.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a semiconductor chip in which the plurality of light-receiving elements are built in.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the light-shielding member covers a part of the semiconductor chip in addition to said one light-receiving element disposed at the extremity.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an additional semiconductor chip in which a plurality of identical light-receiving elements are built in, wherein all of the identical light-receiving elements are exposed.